

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1 and 4 are currently amended and new Claims 8 and 9 are added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 13, line 15 to page 14, line 22, at page 16, lines 1-17, and in Figures 4, 5, and 8-10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0162395) in view of Dow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,038,717, hereinafter “Dow”) and Nakae et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0166829, hereinafter “Nakae”); Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Mak (U.S. Patent No. 2004/0085289); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Harada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,476, hereinafter “Harada”); and Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh, Dow, Nakae, and further in view of Shiono et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0188001, hereinafter “Shiono”) and Fleck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,977,811, hereinafter “Fleck”).

Regarding the outstanding rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that amended Claim 4 no longer recites “the ring of keys.” Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Turning now to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections, and traverse these rejections, as discussed below.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a display;

a keyboard including alphanumeric keys each allocated to one character in a first input mode, wherein at least one of the alphanumeric keys of the keyboard is allocated to more than one character in the second input mode and is provided on a second side of the apparatus;

at least one cursor key configured to select a word generated by a predetermined program, wherein the at least one cursor key is provided on a first side of the apparatus, opposite to the second side, between the display and the keyboard;

a common button configured to be both an activation button to activate the predetermined program and a determination button to determine the word selected from candidates appearing on the display according to a number of times a selected alphanumeric key is pressed in a second input mode while the predetermined program is activated, wherein the common button is provided on a first side of the apparatus between the display and the keyboard,

wherein, when a user holds the apparatus with a first hand on the first side and a second hand on the second side, the first hand can access the common button and the cursor key provided on the first side of the apparatus, but cannot access the at least one of the alphanumeric keys provided on the second side, and

wherein the second hand of the user can access the at least one of the alphanumeric keys provided on a second side of the apparatus, but cannot access the common button and the cursor key provided on the first side.

In the information processing apparatus recited in amended Claim 1, the at least one cursor key and the common button are both provided on a first side of the apparatus and the at least one alphanumeric key allocated to more than one character is provided on a second

side of the apparatus that is opposite to the first side. Accordingly, a user holding the apparatus with a first hand on the first side and a second hand on the second side can access the at least one alphanumeric key, the at least one cursor key, and the common button without having to move their hands. Thus, an information processing apparatus with improved operability is provided. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

Unruh describes a telephone 1 equipped with the display 2 and a keypad 3.¹ Unruh further describes that the keypad 3 is a numeric keypad having only a limited number of keys and that each corresponds to multiple different characters when the keypad is used for entering text information.²

However, it is respectfully submitted that Unruh does not disclose or suggest that “when a user holds the apparatus with a first hand on the first side and a second hand on the second side, the first hand can access the common button and the cursor key provided on the first side of the apparatus, but cannot access the at least one of the alphanumeric keys provided on the second side, and wherein the second hand of the user can access the at least one of the alphanumeric keys provided on the second side of the apparatus, but cannot access the common button and the cursor key provided on the first side,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Instead, as can be seen in Figure 1 of Unruh, a user would be able to access all of the keys on the keypad 3 with either hand holding the telephone 1. Thus, Unruh does not disclose or suggest the claimed arrangement of keys and buttons recited in amended Claim 1.

Unruh further describes that the method of entering text into the telephone 1 described therein could be used in other types of devices, for example, PDAs and computers.³

¹ See Unruh, at paragraph [0060] and in Figure 1.

² See Unruh, at paragraph [0061].

³ See Unruh, at paragraph [0059].

However, it is respectfully submitted that Unruh does not disclose or suggest that the at least one cursor key and the common button are provided on a first side of the apparatus and the at least one alphanumeric key is provided on the second side of the apparatus in the manner described in amended Claim 1.

Dow describes an appliance 22 including user operation buttons 26, 28, 32, 34, 36, and 38.⁴ The Office Action, in section 4 on pages 3 and 4 equates the operation buttons 26, 34, 36, or 38 to the claimed common button. However, as can be seen in Figure 1A of Dow, some of the operation buttons (36 and 38) are positioned in the middle section of the appliance 22 such that a user would not be able to access these buttons without moving either hand from the sides of the appliance 22. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Dow does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Unruh.

Nakae describes a folding mobile communications terminal 1 including a plurality of keys thereon. However, as can be seen in Figure 1 of Nakae, a plurality of keys would be accessible by either hand of a user holding the apparatus 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Nakae does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Unruh and Dow.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Unruh, Dow, and Nakae does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 1, and Claims 5 and 7 which depend thereon, as unpatentable over Unruh in view of Dow and Nakae be withdrawn.

Turning now to the remaining rejections in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the remaining secondary references (Mak, Harada, Shiono, and Fleck) cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Unruh, Dow, and Nakae. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1,

⁴ See Dow, at column 5, lines 19-32 and in Figure 1

and all claims dependent thereon, patentably define over all of the cited references. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections of Claims 1-7 be withdrawn.

New Claims 8 and 9 are added by the present amendment. Support for new Claims 8 and 9 can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 16, lines 1-7, and in Figures 4, 5, and 8-10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

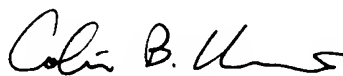
It is noted that Claims 8 and 9 depend on Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 8 and 9 patentably define over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, "in response to the single letter selected by the at least one of the alphanumeric keys, the predetermined program generates a list including a single word and a group of words configured to be selected by the common button." It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest that, in response to a single letter being selected, a list is generated including both single words and groups of words to be selected by a common button. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 8 further patentably defines over the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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